



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

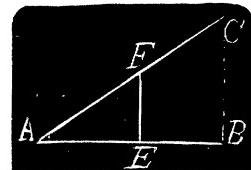
feet to the water, the sweep to be supported by an upright post 20 feet high, and standing 20 feet from the well, and the foot of the sweep to strike the ground 20 feet from the foot of the upright post?

11. Solution by JOHN T. FAIRCHILD, Ada, Ohio.

$AE = 20$ feet; FE , the post, = 20 feet; BE = 20 ft; and CB will be the required length of the rope.

By the similar triangles ABC and AEF , we have $AE : EF :: AB : CB$, or $20 \text{ ft.} : 20 \text{ ft.} :: 40 \text{ feet} : (CB = 40 \text{ feet})$.

Also solved by G. B. M. Zerr, A. L. Foote, H. C. Whitaker, and I. L. Beverage.



12. Proposed by CHARLES E. MYERS, Canton, Ohio.

A man made his will to this effect: that if only the daughter returned home his wife should have $\frac{1}{2}$ and the daughter $\frac{1}{3}$ of the estate; and if only the son returned his wife should have $\frac{1}{2}$ and the son $\frac{1}{3}$. But the son and daughter both returned. How should the estate be divided?

I. Solution by M. A. GRUBER, A.M., War Department, Washington, D. C.

By the first condition, the wife's share = 2 times the daughter's share.

By the second condition, the son's share = 2 times the wife's share, hence 4 times the daughter's share.

The D's share = D's share;

The W's share = 2 D's share;

The S's share = 4 D's share.

$$\text{D's + W's + S's shares} = 7 \text{ D's share} = \text{the estate.}$$

$$\therefore \text{D's share} = \frac{1}{7} \text{ of estate,}$$

$$\text{W's share} = \frac{2}{7} \text{ of estate,}$$

$$\text{S's share} = \frac{4}{7} \text{ of estate.}$$

II. Solution by A. L. FOOTE, C. E., No. 80 Broad St., New York City.

Relatively the expectation of the son is double that of the mother, and the mother double that of the daughter, hence if we give the son four parts, the mother two parts and the daughter one part, we divide the estate into 7 equal parts and the daughter has $\frac{1}{7}$ of it, the wife $\frac{2}{7}$, and the son $\frac{4}{7}$.

There is, however, a legal aspect to this question. In the event of the son and daughter both returning the wife might legally claim her $\frac{1}{2}$ in which case the $\frac{3}{2}$ of the estate would be shared by the son and daughter in the ratio of 2 to 1 or the son would receive $\frac{2}{3}$ and the daughter $\frac{1}{3}$ of the estate.

Also solved by G. B. M. Zerr, Robert J. Aley, H. C. Whitaker, W. F. Bradbury, and P. S. Berg.

[NOTE.—This class of problems probably originated with the Romans whose laws of inheritance gave rise to numerous arithmetical problems. Professor Cajori, in his *History of Mathematics*, p. 80, quotes a problem involving the same principle and numbers as the one above. He further states that the celebrated Roman jurist, Julianus Salvianus, decided that the estate should be divided in the manner indicated by the above solutions.

According to modern jurisprudence, a will of this kind would very probably be set aside and an equal distribution of the estate be made.—ED.]